



Fall Edition 2011

COUNTY CLIPS

A Newsletter for Employees of Contra Costa County

SPOTLIGHT ON

The County Veterans Service Office

See page 3



County Veteran Service Office Staff

L-R (Standing) Phil Munley, Jill Martinez,
Dorian Carr, Mike Hoffschneider, Travis Nelson
(Sitting) Patti McDonald Susan Ferguson.

Message from Supervisor Uilkema



By Gayle B. Uilkema

Greetings! Autumn is just around the corner, and that means the holiday season isn't far behind. While so many of us will be counting our blessings once again, it is impossible to ignore the needs of our friends, neighbors and others who are not so fortunate. As Contra Costa County

employees, you will soon be asked to showcase your generosity once again in our annual "County Cares" food drive. I have complete confidence that this year's effort will surpass even last year's impressive totals, when we topped the \$100,000 barrier in raising funds.

Our friendly competition with Solano County drove up the donations last year to a level that allowed us to reclaim the "Big Apple" trophy. Let's make it two years in a row. The stakes have never been higher. In Contra Costa County, nearly 90,000 people are served by the Food bank of Contra Costa and Solano. 28% of them are kids, many of whom are experiencing a lack of food on the table for the first time. People who used to give to the Food Bank are now accepting help there instead. And through it all, Contra Costa employees have stepped up to provide the financial support so desperately needed.

This will be the tenth year that Contra Costa County has supported the Food Bank, and we have watched contributions grow steadily over time. Last year, we topped the \$100,000 mark. This year, combined with the efforts of our Solano County partners, we hope to see the totals for the decade reach the \$1 million dollar level. That is truly a testament to the generosity and depth of caring by our county employees. I thank you in advance for your willingness to give, and ask you to stay tuned for details on this year's campaign.

On another note, I will be losing some of you and adding others as part of my District 2 family. I have been proud to serve residents of the cities and unincorporated areas within our boundaries, but redistricting will find us shifting our supervisorial district lines soon. Please read the information on page 16 of County Clips to learn the background and details of how this year's redrawing of lines evolved and will take us forward for the next decade.

Thank you all for your efforts during these continued difficult budget times. Together, we can do our best to offer high quality programs and services to our community in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Gayle B. Uilkema



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Recommendations Please

County Clips is your employee newsletter. Please send us your comments, questions & suggestions.

You can contact us at (925) 313-1180 or email us at christine.wampler@contracostatv.org

SPOTLIGHT on the County Veterans Service Office

The role of the County Veterans Service Office, which was established in 1946, is to provide assistance to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces of America, their dependents and survivors, and the general public in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense (DOD), the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) and other programs for veterans and their families. The six member staff which consists of two Veterans Service Representatives, one Branch Office Manager and two support personnel is led by Phillip A. Munley, our County Veterans Service Officer.

Contra Costa County has an established network of veterans of all generations to ensure that veterans are aware of all of the benefits available to them. Contra Costa County has been used as a model county, due to this network, that does not let veterans fall through the cracks. Some of the organizations that make-up this network are: Blue Star Moms; Sentinels of Freedom (a non-profit organization); Veterans of Foreign Wars; Marine Corps League; the American Legion; AMVETS; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The VA consists of three branches, Health Care, Benefits and National Cemeteries. The County Veterans Service Office endeavors to connect veterans with these entitlements. The County Veterans Service Office is an accredited representative of the entire VA system and sees veterans with discharge documents DD214s on a one on one basis. Every veteran is seen, their discharge documents are reviewed, their circumstances are reviewed and the office staff then assists the veterans in accessing the specific benefits they need. Phillip A. Munley, County



Above: Senior Level Clerk Patti McDonald and Executive Secretary Susan Ferguson



Left: Former Branch Office Manager Jill Martinez, handling one of the 10-15 thousand calls received each year.

Below: County Veteran Service Officer Phil Munley with Battle of the Bulge Survivors Martin Turkington and Bill Armstrong at the 2010 Veterans Day Ceremony held at in the County Board Chambers.



Veterans Service Officer, notes that “Due to congressional and court decisions, the VA system has become more complicated over the years making the role of an advocate even more essential in assisting veterans of all eras to understand these complexities.”

A key area that the County Veterans Service Office assists with is the disability compensation cases of veterans. The office provides case management for VA claims that

Spotlight story continued on page 4

SPOTLIGHT on the County Veterans Service Office

Spotlight continued from page 4



Above: Branch Office Manager Dorian Carr assisting a young Marine Veteran to understand his benefits.

Right: Phil Munley at the opening of the Concord VA VET Center with some Vietnam Veterans.



can take upwards of a year for resolution. Homeless, terminally ill, Korean War, WWII and seriously wounded veterans are given priority by the VA. The County Veterans Service Office makes phone calls to follow-up on these types of cases, including: claim development, preparation and submission; case management; and initiates appeals when appropriate.

If a veteran is determined to have a disability of 0% or above, then their children with income below the national poverty level (along with support from the parent) can attend University of California, California State University or California Community Colleges with a waiver of state mandated tuition fees. In fiscal year 10/11 the department assisted 402 students with a savings of \$1,572,710.

In addition, during fiscal year 10/11, the County Veterans Service Office of six staff conducted 6,368 interviews; fielded 11,000 phone calls; and gained 104.6M dollars for Contra Costa County veterans, dependents and survivors through VA monetary payments from disability compensation payments, disability pensions, education and vocational rehabilitation and insurance and indemnities.

If you, or someone you know, is a veteran living in Contra Costa County and would like to know more about benefits and entitlements, please contact the County Veterans Service Office at 925-313-1481.

Head Start Parents Becoming Successful & Self-Sufficient:

TRIPLE P POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM at Contra Costa County Community Services Bureau

Triple P is a highly rated parent education program based on 25 years of research and evidence based outcomes. As part of Contra Costa's Prevention and Early Intervention Program, and with funding from the Mental Health Services Act, Triple P was selected as a Model Parenting Practices Program for the purpose of meeting the parenting education needs of parents countywide.

First 5 Contra Costa has teamed with the Community Services Bureau (CSB) of the County's Employment and Human Services Department to bring Trip P to Head Start and Early Head Start parents. First 5 also provided a Triple P training opportunity for three of the Bureau's Mental Health Clinicians, plus more than a dozen First 5 and COPE Family Support staff, thanks to matching funds from County Mental Health. They will roll-out the program at the Community Services Bureau and partner sites during the 2011-12 grant year.

The goal is to help parents learn effective strategies for managing challenging behaviors, and to strengthen parent/child relationships. Triple P helps parents become more confident and self-sufficient, and to solve problems independently, such as during "high-risk/stress" situations such as meal times, grocery shopping and transition times. The range of options available to them include seminars, individual parent coaching and counseling, group workshops and more intensive therapeutic intervention for severe behavioral challenges.

The TRIPLE P PROGRAM will be offered at Community Services Bureau in West, Central and East Contra Costa County. The program will start in the Early Fall with a three-week Seminar Series providing parents, educators, and community members with an opportunity to learn about & discuss the following topics:

Positive Parenting - Being a Parent and Your Children's Behavior:

- Use Assertive Discipline
- Take Care of Yourself As a Parent

Raising Confident, Competent Children:

- Building Blocks for Success
- Become a Good Problem Solver

Raising Resilient Children:

- What is Emotional Resilience
- Develop Coping Skills

The second phase of the Positive Parenting Program gives parents a chance to participate in the Stepping Stones Group Workshop. These sessions focus on meeting the needs of parents with kids who have a diagnosed disability, or are at risk of developing



social, emotional and behavioral problems. The program is adaptable though, and can be used for any parents interested in improving their parenting skills.

Stepping Stones Group is comprised of a pre-program questionnaire, 5 group sessions, 3 individual coaching and counseling sessions and a post-program questionnaire and graduation celebration. All parents who complete the program will receive a certificate of completion. The program is certified to meet the requirements of mandated parent training and will be offered at CSB sites free of charge to all parents whose children are enrolled at Head Start or Early Head Start. Parents whose children are not enrolled will also be able to attend the Triple P trainings at First 5 Centers across the county.

Besides these established programs, Triple P will be offered to head Start and Early Head Start parents on an individual basis if they request it. Parents with children currently receiving mental health services through the Community Services Bureau and those with diagnosed disabilities are eligible as well.

Triple P Positive Parenting Program is being offered at CSB Head Start, First 5 Centers and Crossroads High School. For more information about the Triple P program, contact Annie Bailey, LMFT at abailey@ehsd.cccounty.us or Wanda Davis at wdavis@firstfivecc.org.





Did You Know?

You can complete an electronic
Vote by Mail Application or download
a Voter Registration Form on our website:

www.cocovote.us

- You can organize a voter registration drive in your neighborhood or as part of a civic engagement activity for your club or organization in your community. Free training materials and voter registration forms are available!
- High school students can volunteer and earn money by participating in the Youth with a Vision Election Officer Program. Students can be part of the election process and show that young people can make a positive difference in their local community while providing a civic service.
- Members of service clubs and non-profit organizations can serve at the polls and donate their stipends to fund-raise money for their organization while serving their community through the Adopt a Poll Program.
- Contra Costa County encourages employees to participate and serve at the poll through the County Employees as Volunteer Poll Worker Program. We are particularly interested in recruiting county workers who are fluent in both English and Spanish to help us comply with the bilingual provisions of the Voting Rights Act and provide language assistance at the polls.
- We are actively looking for locations that can be used as polling places on Election Day. We are particularly interested in facilities that are centrally located, easily identifiable to the public and are easily accessible for people with disabilities.

For more information; please call the Contra Costa County Election Division at:

925-335-7800 or go to our website at
www.cocovote.us.

2011 Combined Charities Campaign

Last year the County's Combined Charities Campaign, "Happy To Help," received contributions totaling more than \$285,000 from over 1,000 County employees. Those who contributed are to be commended for stepping-up, and the charities are very thankful for every dollar they received.

But - did you know that there are almost 8,000 County employees? This means that only 13% of our employees

participated and almost
7,000 (87%) did not.

We recognize that these are difficult times, and that most County employees have been affected by budget reductions and increasing costs and expenses. And, of course, many of you find other ways to help those who are less fortunate.



However, the need is now greater than ever. If the situation was reversed, and you were that less-fortunate person needing the assistance of community charities, how would you want the employees of Contra Costa County to respond to the Campaign's request for a contribution??

We're guessing you would want them to "Bee the Solution!"

This year we're focusing on trying to increase the number of staff who participate in the campaign. Some of the other Bay Area counties have a participation rate of 20-25% or more! Here in Contra Costa County we'd like to reach at least 15%!

Besides that - every dollar does make a difference and you can truly feel good about helping others by contributing what you can and "Bee the Solution." Donating can be as simple as a monthly deduction from your paycheck, allowing you to donate more with less impact to you. Donating in this manner also allows for the charities to plan for the year ahead.

You can contribute to the campaign during the entire month of October.

This year's Campaign Chair is Robin Lipetzky, Department Head, Office of the Public Defender.

If you have any questions about the campaign, you can contact her assistant, Becky Goldberg, at (925) 335-8014 or
Becky.CCC2011@pd.cccounty.us

9/11 NATIONAL MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE

STOP & REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 • 10:00 AM PDT

The U.S. Senate has unanimously passed a resolution (S. Res. 237) calling on all Americans to participate in a Moment of Remembrance on September 11, 2011. For one minute, first responders, houses of worship, towns, and others throughout the country will sound sirens and bells in a signal to each of us to STOP AND REMEMBER the 10th anniversary of the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

*On September 11, 2011,
will you join us in committing to
STOP AND REMEMBER?*

1:00 PM EDT
12:00 PM CDT
11:00 AM MDT
10:00 AM PDT

During this 10th Year Anniversary of 9/11, let us reflect on the lives lost; the bravery of first responders and everyday citizens; and on the grief and suffering of the family and friends of the victims.

2011 Disaster Preparedness Drill “Golden Guardian”

Imagine weeks of heavy rain, soil reaching the saturation point, landslides, creeks rising, widespread flooding and levee breaks in the Delta. Those were among the simulated challenges facing several dozen county staff members in an exercise designed to test our ability to work together to respond during an emergency. Disaster response staff from a wide variety of departments gathered in May at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the Office of the Sheriff's Emergency Services Division as part of the largest state exercise drill in the nation.



Dubbed Golden Guardian 2011, the State of California coordinates this annual drill that presents real life scenarios for emergency services and other government workers to tackle as if they were going on in real time. The focus this year was on preparation, response and recovery from catastrophic flooding in northern California. The exercise provided an opportunity to bring key players together in the newly remodeled EOC, as well as test our ability to manage communications, public information and warning systems, and other critical functions.



In all, more than 5,000 local, regional, state and federal responders, as well as affiliated agencies and private industry, participated in various events throughout the state over the May 17 – 19, 2011 exercise. “The purpose of the exercise was to train for a real world event,” said Office of the Sheriff Lieutenant John Lowden. “We want to meet our partners and be prepared.”



Given the winter storms and rains that dominated much of 2011 so far, the multi-hazard scenario presented was not as far-fetched as it might have sounded when planners began working on it. And from throughout the top of county government, the response was the same: the more we do now to prepare for events like this, the more we can minimize their damage. “It’s not a question of if a disaster will happen,” said Contra Costa County Administrator David Twa. “It will happen, and training is extremely critical.”

Work is already underway for Golden Guardian 2012, which will swing the spotlight to southern California, where a new catastrophic incident plan will be put to the test with a simulated earthquake. In 2013, earthquake preparedness in the East Bay will be the focus.



FROM DRILL TO THE REAL DEAL— EMERGENCY PLANNING IN ACTION

While County staff learned a great deal from the Golden Guardian exercise, some employees have learned even more by being involved first hand in the emergency operations of other jurisdictions. Putting her vacation time to good use, Health Services' Communications Officer Kate Fowlie volunteered with the American Red Cross to provide assistance to flood victims in Minot, North Dakota. The worst flooding there since the 1880s prompted more than 13,000 residents to evacuate, with more than 4,000 homes damaged, many beyond repair. Fowlie said she was impressed by the community's resiliency and how local government responded, partnering with the Red Cross and other community-based organizations to provide food, shelter and other assistance.

"The partnerships were critical to helping the community cope and recover in North Dakota," said Fowlie, who is a Red Cross national public affairs volunteer. Seeing firsthand what works in a disaster is invaluable, and Fowlie said the experience reinforced the importance of online communications tools to keep residents informed, many of which Health Services already uses. In response to the flooding, the City of Minot and the Minot Convention and Visitors Bureau launched a website to serve as a one-stop shop for information. "The frequently updated website served as the portal for all the information residents would need from all the agencies and organizations involved in the response," Fowlie said. "It incorporated daily updates, resources for residents, information for the media, and opportunities for people to help. It even leveraged social media to make sure as many people as possible were being reached," she said.

The communication strategies used successfully in Minot serve as examples for our county as a whole and has resulted in Contra Costa taking a look at fresh ways to reach our own residents should the need arise.



Shelter in Minot, North Dakota

Kate Fowlie's trip to Minot is just one example of a County Employee jumping in to help when needed. In fact, Health Services staff have stepped up many times, including after last year's devastating earthquake in Haiti. Doctors Brenda Reilly, Bill Peterson, Pramita Kuruvilla and Neil Jayasekera joined nurses Cathy Brandt, Laura Miller, Terry Holbrook and Sheilah Zarate in volunteering their time to provide desperately needed medical care.

We'd like to hear your stories. If you or a co-worker goes above and beyond to volunteer time or services outside of work, let us know. In future editions, we would like to highlight some of the many ways our employees use their free time to make Contra Costa, and points beyond, a better place. Drop us a note at cctv@contracostatv.org.



Flooded neighborhood in the Minot, ND area



Kids at Work

An Infant Care & Preschool Center Serving County Employees

Kids at Work (KAW) Childcare Center for County employees currently has some spaces available. We accept infants from 8 weeks old up to kindergarten age. For more information, please contact the Director, Lori Sullivan, at 925-313-2380.

KAW is the first work site infant care/preschool center for County employees. It is located on the grounds of the Public Works Department, 255 Glacier Drive, in Martinez, and serves 37 families from various County departments. Although it is located on



To Whom it May Concern:

"I currently have a 4 year old son and an 18 month old daughter that attend Kids @ Work. We've had our children attend Kids @ Work since our son was 5 months old. Kids @ Work has been wonderful to us.

The staff is very caring and treat our children like their own. They greet the children when they arrive and give hugs and wave goodbye when they leave. Throughout the day they provide age appropriate activities for the children and do fun things for the children around the holidays.

One of the many things I like about Kids @ Work is that they have a low turn around in staff, which makes for a consistent stable environment for the kids. I am very happy sending my children to Kids @ Work and am glad we chose them to care for our children."

Genny Maloney

County grounds, it is not a County facility. KAW is an incorporated private, non-profit, business that cares for the children of Contra Costa County employees.

Our goal is to keep the rates as reasonable as possible, while providing quality care for the children. We have a great director and staff, and we are very proud of the center and the learning programs for the children. Space is limited, so please call to schedule a tour today at 925-313-2380.

"My son Michael graduated from Kids at Work (KAW) this summer after being in their care for more than 3 years.

We will miss all of his wonderful teachers who have contributed so much to him becoming the little independent man he is now and helped prepare him for his next big step as a Kindergartener.

The staff at KAW has been extremely knowledgeable, supportive and loving to Michael and our family and we will miss having them as part of our lives.

I felt safe knowing that Michael was in capable and caring hands during my work hours.

Thanks to all of you at Kids at Work and continue your great work!"

Heike Siewell



Department of Conservation and Development!



photo credit to: "Steve Whittaker, copyright 2011"

The Contra Costa Centre Transit Village Project was selected to receive the Planning Implementation-Large Jurisdiction Award from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. The award recognizes the successful implementation of the Contra Costa Centre (Pleasant Hill BART Station Area) Specific Plan for mixed-use, transit-oriented development in an infill setting. By combining appropriate land uses and a diversity of transportation modes, Contra Costa Centre Transit Village has unparalleled accessibility for Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and public transit patrons, residents, and employees. Congratulations Department of Conservation and Development!

Contra Costa Reaches Out – Enhancing Creek and Channel Safety

The tragic accident that took the lives of two Las Lomas High School students last February shined a light on the need to make our community aware of the potential dangers of our creeks and flood control channels. The teens made an attempt to raft down the Walnut Creek Channel, with disastrous consequences. What we learned immediately is that the "No Trespassing" signs already in place at various points throughout the channel system are a start at conveying the danger, but what we really need is a widespread outreach campaign to ensure parents and kids know that these passages are not for recreation.

Contra Costa County Public Works and Flood Control District staff joined forces to work with partner agencies, schools and community groups to gather input on how we can best improve safety and enhance awareness. Public response was high, and ideas such as improved signage, additional fencing and other physical measures have been discussed. Equally significant has been the desire by teens themselves to help educate their peers.

The program will expand throughout the year to include more outreach to and involvement with kids, getting their input on how to send the safety message. Videos and innovative signage will both be part of the mix. Regular media coverage and information to parents will be part of the campaign, and other water agencies with similar messages have offered to help spread the word.

The lure of a rushing creek in beautiful surroundings can be hard to resist. By sharing information about the dangers that lurk behind what might appear to be a calm creek, we hope to prevent further tragedies along our creek and channel system.

If you would like more information on the outreach program or have ideas to share, please visit the Safety Program Website for more details <http://www.cccounty.us/index.aspx?NID=2895>.

Health Services Adds Two Mobile Clinics Thanks to Federal Grant



Thanks to a grant from the Affordable Care Act, our Contra Costa Health Services Department is able to purchase two new mobile health vans to serve schools in our county. The Public Health Division's Clinic Services Program received \$498,524 to add the 44-foot-long vans to its current fleet of four. The new vans are expected serve an additional 1,950 students. When the new vans are up and running next year they should serve an additional 1,950 students per year, according to Health Services. The department says the aim is to keep kids healthy so they can stay in school. The vans offer health screenings, health promotion and disease prevention activities.

Ground Breaking of New West County Health Center

After years of anticipation, we have broken ground on the site of our new West County Health Center (WCHC) in San Pablo. Employees from Contra Costa Health Services were joined at the groundbreaking ceremony in May by our General Services Department, District I Supervisor John Gioia, Congressman George Miller, Senator Loni Hancock, Assemblymember Nancy Skinner, local elected officials and community members. The 53,000 square foot, environmentally-sustainable facility (LEED certified) is expected to be completed by July, 2012, and open its doors by September, 2012. The WCHC replaces Health Services' aging Richmond Health Center, which has served West County residents for almost 50 years. Health Services Director, Dr. William Walker, said the new health center will increase the number of people served, increase access to services and create a medical hub for West County. It is funded, in part, by a \$12 million grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For updates on the project or to find out more about its impact on West County, visit www.cchealth.org/topics/west_county_center/.



Left to right: Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Senator Loni Hancock, San Pablo Vice Mayor Cecilia Valdez, Congressman George Miller, Supervisor John Gioia, Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, Construction & Building Trade CEO Greg Feere, Dr. Walker and San Pablo Councilmember Arturo Cruz. Below, a conceptual rendering of the West County Health Center



Whooping Cough (Tdap) Vaccinations for Schoolchildren



Driven by the possibility of not being allowed in school next year, Contra Costa schoolchildren are getting vaccinated for whooping cough. A new state law, which took effect July 1, requires all students entering seventh through twelfth grade to show proof they received a whooping cough booster - called Tdap - since their seventh birthday. Our Health Services Department carried out a months-long public awareness and vaccination campaign to help youths comply with the requirement. The Public Health Division, Hospital and Health Centers, and Contra Costa Health Plan vaccinated thousands of youths at mass vaccination clinics, drop-in clinics and regular immunization clinics. The Health Plan also offered free Tdap vaccine for its members at Rite-Aid and Walgreens. Immunization Coordinator, Paul Leung, estimated the new requirement affected 100,000 youths in Contra Costa, and estimated about half had the booster before the law took effect. To find out more about the law or to find a clinic near you that offers Tdap vaccine, visit www.cchealth.org/topics/pertussis/ or call 925-313-6767.

Health Services Registered Nurse Jennifer Dean administers vaccine at a Tdap clinic in San Pablo

County Hospital Hosts Regional Launch for National Partnership for Patients



Congressman George Miller addresses a crowd of staff, supporters and partners April 22 at Contra Costa Regional Medical Center.

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC) and Health Centers, operated by our Contra Costa Health Services, are a proud partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs initiative. Part of the Affordable Care Act, the initiative brings together health care, business and government leaders to make hospital care safer, more reliable and less costly. CCRMC was among the first 56 organizations nationwide to sign the Partnership pledge and was honored to be selected as the site for the regional launch of the initiative on April 22, 2011. At the launch event held in front of the hospital, Congressman George Miller, HHS Regional Director Herb

Schultz and Joseph McCannon, Senior Advisor with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, described CCRMC as a model for the rest of the country. "This is a remarkable community. The work that you are doing is just fantastic," McCannon said, praising CCRMC staff and CEO Anna Roth for her leadership and adding that this initiative is part of health care reform's focus on "increased reliability in the health care system and making the system safer, having it provide results of the kind we are seeing here in Contra Costa." CCRMC has a longstanding commitment to patient safety and is excited to join other hospitals across the nation in this partnership. To read more about this initiative or to watch a clip from the launch, visit www.cchealth.org/topics/reform/partnership/

Contra Costa County Library

One City, One Book: Let's all get on the same page!

September and October are City Reads months in Contra Costa County and many Contra Costa County Libraries are offering One City, One Book programs and special events, all around a single book the whole town is reading!

One City, One Book programs are designed to foster community discussion by encouraging an entire community to read the same book at the same time. This fall, join your neighbors in reading the following books and attending similarly themed events at the following libraries:

BRENTWOOD

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese
Sept.12-Oct.29

DANVILLE and SAN RAMON

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford
Sept. 19-Oct.24

KENSINGTON

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Sept. 10-Oct. 24

LAFAYETTE, MORAGA, and ORINDA

Carter Beats the Devil by Glen David Gold
Sept. 19-Nov. 1

PLEASANT HILL

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Oct. 1-Oct. 31

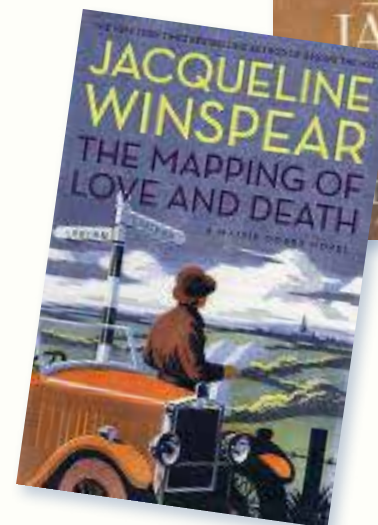
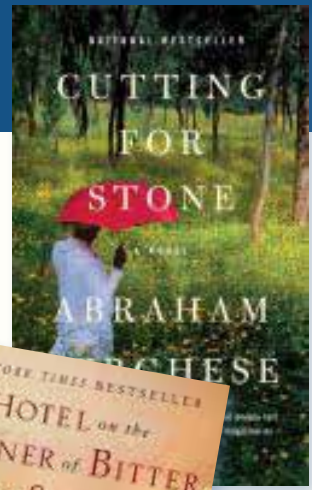
WALNUT CREEK, Ygnacio Valley

The Mapping of Love and Death by Jacqueline Winspear
Sept.12-Oct.5

Participate in this common experience that helps us appreciate a work of literature more deeply by sharing it with friends, family, and neighbors, and across generations and cultures.

There are plenty of programs and events planned to help you immerse yourself in the stories including parties and games, talks by authors and prominent scholars, hands-on art and cultural programs, and opportunities to meet and discuss the book.

For details about events and information about borrowing a copy of the book, visit <http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook>.





Feeling the Workload Pressure and the Financial Pinch?

Employee Assistance Program PROVIDES VITAL SERVICES

Doing more with less has been the mantra for so many county employees in recent years, as we've battled the recession's impacts on our staffing, ability to provide services and our own paychecks. Help is available to all of us as we try to achieve a balance between work and home life, but many county staff members may not be aware of how simple it is to get that assistance. Workshops, free counseling sessions and access to financial management and wellness classes are just the beginning.



Jim O'Donnell has spent more than three decades building and administering Contra Costa's Employee Assistance Program, and has seen the needs rise with the declining economy. He remains optimistic that we can help each other through with so many programs and services. O'Donnell says that picking up the phone early, before an employee or family is in crisis, can make a huge difference, whether the problems are financial, work-related or emotional in nature. "We have made an impact on thousands of lives over the years, and our services have grown and changed over time," O'Donnell notes. "What hasn't changed is that getting help is still just as easy as making a call."

Find out more about the services available to you by calling (925) 930-4403. Voice mail messages are checked frequently, and you'll receive a call outlining the many options that might fit your needs. You can also check out the information online at the Employee Assistance website. <http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1359>

Looking For Your Thoughts...

Are you a regular reader of the County Clips newsletter? If so, we'd like your input! County Clips has been a regular feature for employees for over 10 years in Contra Costa County. Over the years, our look has changed, our content has changed, and our method of publishing has changed.

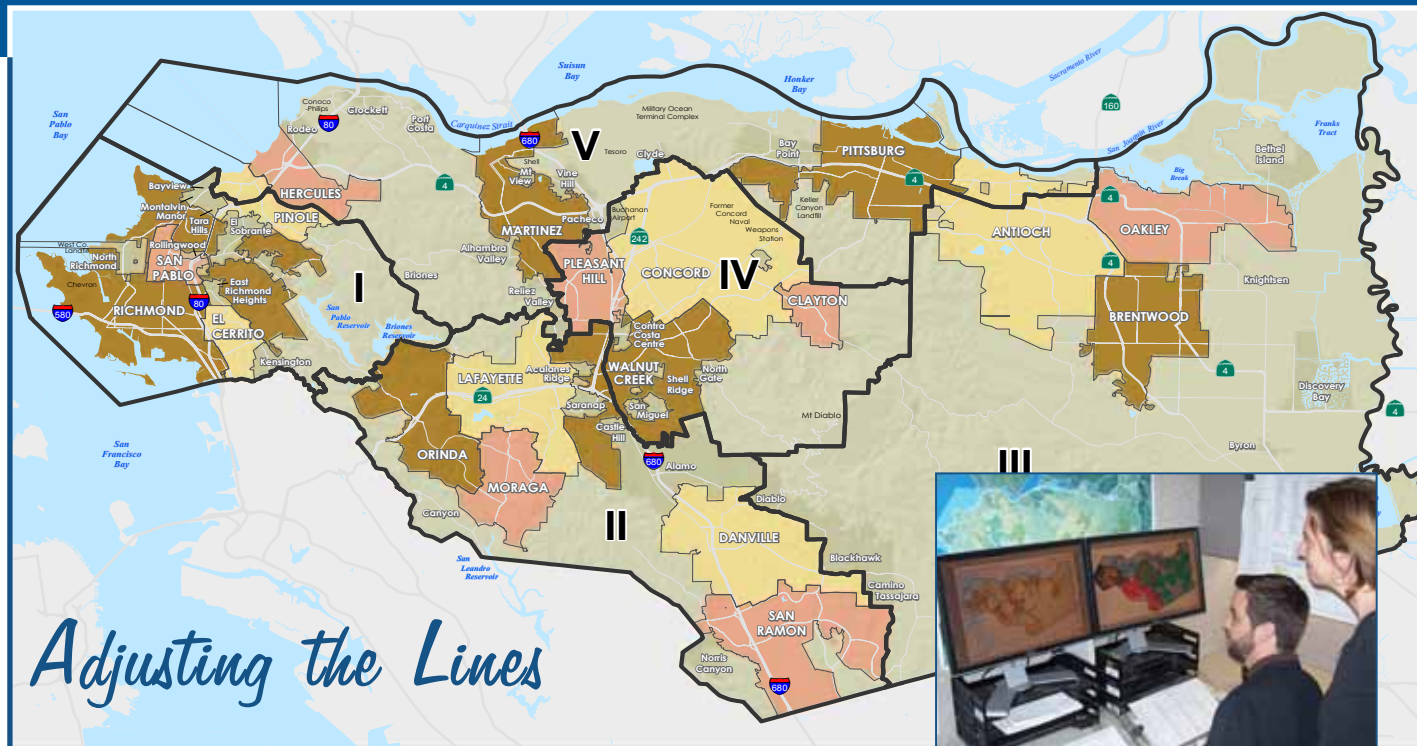
What remains the same is our commitment to be a valuable resource for County employees. With that in mind, we want to give you a heads-up that a simple online survey will be heading to your email inbox soon to gauge your user experience with County Clips. We want to know what types of stories you read, and if there are things you skip over with just a glance. And if you're not reading it at all, let us know how we can better connect with you so that you're getting fresh and helpful information.

The 2011 County Clips Survey will be coming this month from the County Administrator's Office. Please give us 5-10 minutes of your time, and we'll listen closely to your feedback.

Thank you from the Office of Communications and Media!



REDISTRICTING



Adjusting the Lines



Chris Howard seated and Kristine Solseng standing work on redistricting maps

Every decade, the U.S. Census provides us with an amazing array of demographic information about the country, with detailed information at the federal, state and local level that can provide a snapshot of even a neighborhood's makeup. The completion of the Census, though, is just the beginning of a process for state and local governments known as redistricting. Following each Census, cities, counties and states must analyze the data and redraw boundary lines for legislative districts that are based upon population. Those include our county supervisorial districts and, for Contra Costa County, we have just completed an adjustment of our boundaries with the new ones going into effect September 9, 2011.

"Taking the total population of the county and dividing into five equal portions might seem simple, but the task of redistricting is so much more complicated than that," noted Catherine Kutsuris, whose Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) led the county's efforts. "There are many factors that go into creating districts that follow logical lines, and people living within them that have vastly different ideas about which neighborhoods and cities belong together." Keeping in mind that there can only be a slight variance in population between each district, it becomes clear that this is more difficult than it seems. Widespread growth in any one part of the County, as we saw in the San Ramon Valley and in East County over the past decade, can make it difficult to just perform the smallest of tweaks.

Kutsuris's team carried out the mission of soliciting widespread public input. More than a dozen community meetings and public hearings generated input that allowed staff to draw various map concepts to put before the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Public testimony at Board hearings found strong support for a number of very different map concepts, making it clear that everyone would have to give a little in order to reach a compromise.

New to the process this year was a mapping tool that allowed anyone with an idea of how to draw the maps to actually take part and create their own districts. This brought community input to a new level and truly enhanced the ability of the public represented by our Board members to have a greater say in who might represent them.

The complexity that level of input brought to the process generated wide praise to the DCD staff that had to assimilate the data quickly and accurately into maps that could be printed and explained to the Board of Supervisors and the public. Adjustments came frequently, and DCD crews were able to quickly produce new versions as needed. "Conservation and Development's redistricting team was amazing in their responsiveness to changes, managing the flow of suggestions and ensuring we were presenting concepts that would meet legal requirements. It was an exciting, dynamic process," Kutsuris said.

The Board of Supervisors ultimately agreed to a map that was based upon many compromises, and will mean some shifting in constituency for all five Board members. The new supervisorial district map, approved by the Board, will remain in effect for another decade when the process kicks-off all over again.

Learn more about the process and the map adopted by visiting the County's redistricting website at www.CCRedistricting.org.

Fast Facts:

- 15 public workshops on redistricting conducted in all 5 Supervisorial Districts from May 16 to June 4
- 340 email comments or inquiries submitted by the public through the County's redistricting website
- 30 map proposals submitted by the public through a mapping program on the County's redistricting website
- 19 map proposals prepared by DCD for the Board of Supervisors consideration through 3 public hearings

Communities Against Senior/Financial Exploitation (CASE) Training

Protecting our elders from financial exploitation was the topic of a training session conducted in July by a partnership comprised of Communities Against Senior/Financial Exploitation (CASE); Elder Financial Protection Network; the Area Agency on Aging; Adult Protective Services; and several financial institutions in the County. Twenty volunteers attended to learn about prevention techniques. These volunteers will be equipped to go out into the community and make presentations to groups of seniors on protecting themselves against

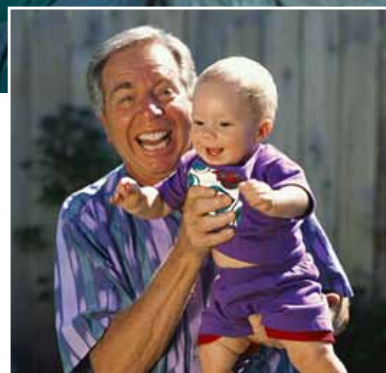


CASE train the trainer session



financial crimes. Training volunteers to train other community members is an effective and cost efficient way in which the Employment and Human Services Department

is striving to maintain safety net services threatened by devastating budget reductions. For additional information about future training sessions in Contra Costa County, please visit www.bewiseonline.org.



Seniors making the most of their golden years.



Online Game Showing Students How County Government Works

This fall, students in schools across the country will be able to learn about county government through an online game that the National Association of

Counties (NACO) created in partnership with iCivics, Inc. The game, "Counties Work," will educate students, grades 6 through 12, about the important role and functions of county government by letting them run their own county. To play the game, visit www.naco.org/countieswork. Click on the following two links to view the curriculum/lesson plans and webquest/county basics developed to assist teachers. Contact: Tom Goodman • 202.942.4222 for more information.

Recent County Employee Retirements with 20+ Years of Service*

Assessor's Office

Lori Koch	31 years
Bob Brady	27 years
Connie Lambert	22 years
Ruby Villaruel	25 years
Bob Mowbray	33 years
Debra Smedley	26 years
Rick Evia	21 years
Kirk Robinson	31 years
Jim Lynch	34 years
Karen Commins	23 years

Auditor-Controller

Tina Kaufmann	30 Years
Toni Bidwell	29 Years

Clerk-Recorder's Office/ Elections Department

Barbara Chambers	30 years+
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Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

January – July 2011

Ron Martin	20 years
Ann Borden	20 years
Mark Ferrara	25 years
Wayne Borch	25 years
Robert McClendon	25 years
Louis Paulson	26 years
Bryan Cisterman	26 years
Lawrence Nunes	26 years
Dennis Clemens	27 years
Timothy Koch	28 years
Tauby Skinner	nearly 30 years
Lela Easter	30 years
Edward Kuidis	30 years
Kevin McCarthy	31 years
Randy Kramm	32 years
Chris Gonsalves	32 years
Reggia Desmond	37 years
Vicki Wisher	37 years

Child Support Services

Dorothy Siegfried	24 years
Marianne Farina	21 years
Kalyani Lalgudi	21 years
Sylvia Siu	24 years
Louise Britton	35 years
Sharon Henderson	33 years

Employment & Human Services

Terry Pedras	41 years
Joan White	40 years
Christine Gallagher	39 years
Peter Harris	39 years
Sue Harryman	39 years
Pam Wilson	39 years
Adela Brower	38 years
Nancy Lewis	38 years
Miriam McCoy	37 years
Debbie Rollins	37 years
Judy Simmons	37 years
Ophelia Kelly	37 years
Pamela McFarlin	37 years
Mary Guyse	36 years
Pam Phillips	36 years
Kathy Hughes	35 years
Doretha Clark	34 years
Mary Scrimiger	34 years
Cynthia Wright	33 years
Nadine Peyrucain	31 years
Sally Applegate	31 years
Linda Seiden	31 years
Tho Quach	31 years
Deborah Robinson	30 years
Ollie Watson	30 years
Connie Contreras	30 years
Rose Borbon	30 years
Gayle Gorden	29 years
Christine Crosbie	28 years
Katheryn Bean	25 years
Darlene Davidson	25 years
Victoria Thompson	25 years
Barbara Williams	25 years
Joan Garcia	24 years
Linda Chandler	24 years
Janet Gricius	24 years
Evelyn Bostic	23 years
Beverly Hamile	23 years
Deborah Banks	22 years
Wanda Barber	22 years
Barbara Jack	22 years
Nina Osterlye	22 years
Christine Sadika	22 years
Dianne Smith	22 years
Julie Solomon	22 years
Leonia Sherman	21 years
Elsa Vega	21 years
Raymond Cassell	21 years
Rosalinda Camacho	21 years
Vicki Mathews	36 years
Maria Mes	31 years

General Services Department

Susanne Bagno	39 years
Cheryl Shevlin	30 years
Cecilia Landers	22 years
Marty Ochoa	25 years
Gene Moeller	21 years
Maria Garcia	21 years
Dan Gillan	32 years
Jimmy Silva	32 years.

Office of the County Counsel

Vickie L. Dawes	32 years
Paul R. Muniz	27 years
Valerie J. Ranche	23 years

Public Works Department

Kevin Albertsen	22 years
Robert Mitch Avalon	32 years
Teresa Boney	29 years
Kenton Coyle	34 years
Paula Edmonds	24 years
Scott Edmonds	38 years
Susan L. Hill	38 years
Charles E. Jeffries	20 years
Wanda L. Quever	31 years

Redevelopment Department

James Kennedy	35 years
Roberta Goulart	22 years

Risk Management

Jean Haskell	28 years+
Rosa Ramirez	26 years+

*Information as reported to County Clips by departments. All departments were invited to submit recent retiree information, some departments may not have done so.



Congratulations on a Job Well Done!



Richard E. Arnason Justice Center in Pittsburg received the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) Excellence in Partnering Award for 2011 for projects under \$50 million. The award recognizes successful projects that overcome unforeseen challenges to come in on or ahead of schedule, under budget, with high quality and excellent safety records, due to a successful commitment to partnering, innovation and teamwork.



This three-story, 75,000 square foot facility includes seven courtrooms, judges' chambers, administrative space, a library, conference room and several prisoner holding cells. The project team faced considerable coordination challenges from the onset, due to the complexity of systems and interior finishes that go into a courtroom project. A mechanical system issue that arose prior to construction required the team to go back and redesign,

affecting the schedule and creating other obstacles to overcome. Even with all of the challenges, everyone worked together and maintained its commitment to partnering and teamwork. The partners in approach saved the owner more that \$2 million.

Paula MacKinnon and Cathy Sanford received an Emerald Literati Network 2011 Award for Excellence (Highly Commended Papers) with the publication of their article, "Snap & Go: A QReactive Case in Point" as published in Library Hi Tech News. The award winning papers are chosen following consultation amongst the journal's editorial team. To quote the award letter: "Your paper has been selected as it was one of the most impressive pieces of work the team has seen throughout 2010."

The "Snap & Go" project allows Contra Costa County residents with mobile phones and a library card to access library materials, enhanced content, and manage their accounts without having to visit a library building or gain access to a computer. This is made possible through the use of QR (Quick Response) codes, a two-dimensional barcode technology popular in Japan and with point-of-sale companies in the United States, and increasingly found on product labels, billboards, and posters, to encode information and automatically launch web-accessible functions.

Dorette McCollumn, who has worked with Health Services for nearly a decade, has been named the department's new Personnel Officer. She has been in an acting role since



Shelley Pighin retired from that position earlier in the year. Dorette started her career in the Financial Counseling Unit, and was promoted to Personnel Liaison in the Public Health Division before becoming a Personnel Analyst. Congratulations to Shelley on her retirement and to Dorette on her new position!



Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services, Pat Frost, was selected to be the new Director of Emergency Medical Services.

Pat has worked for the Health Services Department since 2006. She brings more than 30 years of experience as a pediatric/neonatal critical care nurse, educator, quality improvement coordinator and nurse practitioner. Pat replaces Art Lathrop, who retired in March. Congratulations to Art on his retirement and Pat on her new position!

Terry Speiker, Chief Assistant County Administrator, has been appointed as a Vice Chair to the National Association of Counties' (NACo's) Healthy Counties Advisory Board. She will serve as a Vice Chair along with Nick Macchione, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, San Diego County.

